

ATTACHMENT - REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action issued on January 31, 2011.

Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-19, 22, and 24-29 remain in this application wherein the claims have been amended solely for purposes of form, as will be explained below.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courteous telephone interview granted to the undersigned on February 8, 2011.

During the interview, the undersigned requested that a certain term in the application be changed to be more properly descriptive of the element shown in Figure 3. It has been referred to as an elastic washer. However, the undersigned suggested, and the Examiner agreed that a more appropriate term would be resilient ring. Since this matter concerns only terminology for an element which is clearly described in the specification and shown in the drawings, there is no question of new matter. Thus, the term "elastic washer" and at other locations "spring washer" has been changed to "resilient ring" throughout the specification, claims and abstract. Since the actual structure is clearly shown in the drawings and described in the specification, and is not being changed, no new matter is involved.

In the telephone interview, the undersigned also addressed the § 112 rejection as set forth in paragraph no. 3. For the following reasons, Applicant's attorney explained why it is believed that the phrases referred to in that paragraph, "the guide bushing having an openable front end through which the punching die can be inserted and removed" and "the die plunger removed from the guide bushing through the said openable front end" as well as the change in the drawing to add dotted lines designated

by the letter "s", are clearly and fully described in the original specification so that no new matter is involved.

With respect to the letter "s", it is intended to show diagrammatically the exchangeable stripper plate which is explicitly mentioned at the bottom of page 7.

As explained by the undersigned, the term "stripper plate" is well-known in the art. The Wilson et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,131,303, at column 2, line 15, describes the bottom of a punch which resembles the bottom of the punch as shown in Figure 1 of this application as a stripper plate. However, these stripper plates are more commonly shown as removable plates. Referring just to the references cited in this application, the following six references explicitly discuss and illustrate a removable stripper plate: Johnson et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,054,347 (element 74); Rosene et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,752,424 (element 36); Schneider et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,832,798 (element 20); Johnson, U.S. Patent No. 5,884,546 (element 18); and Schneider et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,196,103 (element 6).

With respect to the two sentences in paragraph no. 3 of the Office Action which have been quoted above, Applicant's attorney pointed out where these features of the openable front end of the guide bushing and the punch die being inserted and removed therethrough and the die plunger being removed from the guide bushing through the openable front end are clearly described in the specification.

As examples, page 3 describes permitting a simple and rapid separation of the punching die from the die plunger. Page 4, lines 7-9 describe that the punching die can be separated from the die plunger pushed into the bore in the front end of the die plunger. Page 9 recites "[I]n the course of inserting the punching die 22 into the

bore 18, ... ", and at page 11, lines 11 and 12 it is stated that "[A]s soon as the front end of the die plunger 12 has been removed from the guide bushing...".

During the telephone discussion, the Examiner questioned the clarity of the phrase in the last four lines of the claim of the die plunger being removed from the guide bushing through the said openable front end. What is stated therein is correct but was somewhat awkward. The die plunger is not completely removed through the openable front end. More accurately, as now stated, the lower end of the die plunger moves out of the guide bushing through the openable front end (for the purpose of releasing the resilient ring so as to release the pressure of the snap-in balls on the annular groove so that the punching die can be removed from the die plunger).

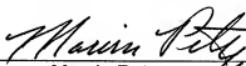
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is promptly and respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 15, 2011

Signed By
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